



Pak-Russia partnership in energy sector is significant. Both the sides have affirmed to work together in the area of energy and for mutual development and progress

Minister for Petroleum
Musadik Malik

Attaullah Tarar expresses resolve to continue playing a positive role to uphold parliamentary sovereignty

Says right of legislation solely rests with the parliament under the constitution of Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar Advocate says right of legislation solely rests with the parliament under the constitution of Pakistan.

In a televised message on Thursday, Attaullah Tarar said parliament is the supreme institution and Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has always played a positive role for parliamentary sovereignty.

Supporting and appreciating Speaker National Assembly's stance regarding independent returned candidates, the Minister expressed resolve to continue playing a positive role to uphold parliamentary sovereignty. Attaullah Tarar said that no institution has the right to interpret the constitution according to its own liking. He said that the interpretation of Article 63-A by the Supreme Court of Pakistan is tantamount to rewriting of the constitution. He said that the parliament is the supreme institution, adding that the letter of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to Election Commission of Pakistan is a milestone. Attaullah Tarar said that Sardar Ayaz Sadiq always made efforts for promoting the supremacy of the parliament and in this regard he has written a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner, which is an important milestone.

Pakistan Values Ties with Russia: Minister

ISLAMABAD: A Russian delegation comprising Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Russian Deputy Minister for Energy held a meeting with a Pakistani delegation led by Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik in Islamabad. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest during the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik said Pakistan values ties with Moscow. He stated Pak-Russia partnership in energy sector is significant. Both the sides have affirmed to work together in the area of energy and for mutual development and progress. The Russian delegation also lauded the beauty of Islamabad. Earlier, Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk said that Moscow will support Pakistan's application to join BRICS, the group of leading emerging market economies.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation Alexei Overchuk calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. ONLINE

Pakistan is keen to expand trade, economic, energy, connectivity & security cooperation with Russia: PM

PM Shehbaz to attend 79th UNGA session from Sep 23-27

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk called on Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed DPM Overchuk and his delegation to Islamabad and conveyed that Pakistan considers strengthening relations with Russia as an important priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan is keen to expand trade, economic, energy, connectivity and security cooperation with Russia and added that he looked forward to welcoming Russian PM Mishustin to Islamabad next month. The Prime Minister recalled that he had a very fruitful discussion with President Vladimir Putin in July earlier this year and conveyed his thanks to President Putin for sending the high-level delegation to discuss expansion of bilateral cooperation.

DPM Overchuk thanked the PM for the warm welcome and reiterated Russia's resolve to deepen relations with Pakistan. He characterized Pakistan-Russia relations as constructive and mutually beneficial. The two sides agreed to maintain regular contacts. The Prime Minister also witnessed

signing of a MoU between Russia and Pakistan, which signifies the shared understanding and desire of the two countries to further strengthen mutually advantageous cooperation in all areas of shared interest, especially trade, investment, energy, IT, agriculture, science & technology and education.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to participate in the high-level segment of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from September 23-27, 2024.

He will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and senior government officials, Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing here Thursday.

In his address at the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Shehbaz will reaffirm Pakistan's steadfast commitment to multilateralism and express support for the role of the United Nations in forging global peace, security, and prosperity.

He will also emphasize the importance of addressing long-standing issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council, including the question of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, he will attend several high-level meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA ses-

sion, including the High-level Meeting on Existential Threats Posed by Sea-level Rise and the UN Security Council's Open Debate on Leadership for Peace.

The bilateral meetings with world leaders, meetings with the UN Secretary-General and President of the UN General Assembly, and members of the Pakistani diaspora are also on the agenda of the prime minister's visit. Simultaneously, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will also participate in several high-level events and bilateral meetings with his counterparts.

Besides representing Pakistan at the Summit of the Future, convened by the UN Secretary-General on September 22-23, Ishaq Dar will also take part in several ministerial meetings, including the OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers; Meeting of OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir; Ministerial Meeting of G77 and China; and The Non-Aligned Movements Ministerial meeting.

The spokesperson said that the prime minister's upcoming participation in the 79th UNGA session would be an opportunity to present Pakistan's policy perspective on important issues on the global agenda and reaffirm Pakistan's strong commitment to the purpose and principles of the UN Charter and international peace and security.

Romina advocates China's governance model as best example in world

VOM Report



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday said the Chinese people

centric governance model was a powerful model leading to poverty alleviation, technological advancement and development led by the people.

She was addressing the Dialogue for People-centric Governance System: A Case Study of China seminar hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization, Research and Development (AIERD) here at the IRS. PM's aide Romina Khurshid said that Pak-China friendship demanded both the nations to learn from mutual experiences for common good and human development integrated with environmental and nature conservation for a sustainable future.

"China's example of integrating strong governance with public participation is a learning experience. It's a powerful model leading to poverty alleviation, technological advancement and development," she said. She underlined that China had upheld women rights and empowerment in every facet of its life from business to industry and social life to politics, but it never adopted condescending attitude towards other nations in that regard. The PM's aide underlined that in China every sector has women participation and were enjoying many successful positions. She lauded the Chinese government's paradigm of policy ensuring health, agriculture and other critical sectors widely promoted and flourishing with positive future outlooks. She informed that Pakistan was also making strides for people centric and climate friendly development through National Climate Change Policy, Adaptation Plan, whereas Green Pakistan Programme, and Recharge Pakistan projects were focussed on forest conservation, community development and floodwater management through multiple approaches involving community.

"We are focussing our environmental policies through people centric approach based on green employment and development," Romina Khurshid Alam said. On the occasion, CEO AIERD, Shakeel Ahmed Ramay moderated the dialogue whereas President IRS, Ambassador, Jauhar Saleem welcomed the speakers and participants to join the dialogue to learn different perspectives of Chinese development and advancements overtime. Former Pakistani envoy to China, Ambassador Moin ul Haque said the true essence of people centric governance is the public good as it was about serving not ruling the masses. The Chinese development model based on the ideals of Confucius that emphasised on leadership and values of leadership of benevolence, righteousness, wisdom, and loyalty, he added. "No country has developed at such big scale in short span of time like China. Chinese invested in technology for health, medicine, pollution control, nature preservation with the vision to serve people of China. It brought 800 million people out of poverty and China's poverty alleviation study is a case study to learn for improving social security and poverty alleviation strategies for Pakistan," he said.

Professionalism of Pakistani Peacekeepers Acknowledged by Indian Force Commander: ISPR

Pakistan Female Peacekeepers Recognized for their Professionalism



RAWALPINDI: In the line with mandate assigned by UNSC, Pakistani peacekeepers are performing their duties for maintenance of peace and security in South Sudan. Pakistani blue helmets have undertaken daunting engineers' tasks in complex and challenging operational environment to ensure Protection of Civilians which has always remained top priority for Pakistani Peacekeepers. Pakistani contingent worked day & night and protected over 250,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in worst flood effected areas. The professionalism of Pakistan Peacekeeping Contingent has been acknowledged by Force Commander United Mission in South Sudan, Lieutenant General S Mohan from India. The acknowledgement has been made in form of a letter to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HI (M); in which Indian General Officer commended profession-

alism, dedication and unwavering commitment of Pakistani Peacekeepers. Moreover, Indian General Officer specially acknowledged the role played by Brigadier Shafiq Iqbal as Sector Commander and Lieutenant Colonel Shahbaz Aslam as Commanding Officer. The Force Commander's recognition serves as a testament to the Pakistani Army's reputation as a reliable and capable partner in international peacekeeping efforts. Pakistan remains committed to play a pivotal role as a responsible member of the international community to help realize the ideals of global peace and security through active support in UN Peacekeeping Missions. Meanwhile, Two Pakistani Female Peacekeepers: Major Sania Safdar (served in UN Peacekeeping Mission Cyprus) and Major Komal Masood (served in Central African Republic) have been recognized for their outstanding performance and commitment in promoting the ideals of UN and awarded with Gender Advocacy Award by Under Secretary General, Department of Peace Operations, UNHQ, New York.

Continued on Page 4

Jam Kamal, US trade representative discuss bilateral trade expansion

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday held a virtual meeting with United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai to strengthen bilateral trade relations between both countries. The minister highlighted that the US is Pakistan's leading trade destination and expressed desire to further expand this partnership, said a news release. He underscored the country's agricultural strengths particularly in mangoes and dates, and noted the potential for growth in value-added agro-services. Katherine Tai acknowledged Pakistan's contributions, particularly its agricultural exports, and praised the quality of Pakistani mangoes. She also mentioned the potential for US beef exports to Pakistan, given the large demand in the market. Both sides discussed issues of mutual interest, agreeing to further strengthen their trade relations. During the meeting, it was confirmed that the next Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meeting would be scheduled soon, along with discussions on agriculture, textiles, women's empowerment, IT and E-commerce.

UAE delegation meets DPM Dar to discuss investment in aviation sector



ISLAMABAD: A high ranking delegation from the United Arab Emirates led by CEO of Shipping and Transhipment, Abu Dhabi Ports Amir Maghami on Thursday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar here. In the meeting, they discussed the investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in aviation sector, according to a Foreign Ministry press release. Meanwhile, DPM Dar chaired a meeting to

assess the preparations for the upcoming 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation scheduled to be held here next month.

Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and officials from relevant ministries attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed at length the updates on conference arrangements. The deputy prime minister expressed satisfaction over the progress. APP

FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch describes the election exercise in IIOJK as farcical

Rejects Acting Afghan Consul General's explanation for not standing during the Pakistani national anthem at an event in Peshawar

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has said that Pakistan is committed to the full implementation of Indus Water Treaty. Responding to the queries of media persons at her weekly news briefing regarding India's notice seeking reassessment of the treaty, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan considers the Indus Water Treaty as an important one and hopes that India will also comply with its provisions. The spokesperson pointed out that the two countries have a mechanism of Indus Water Commissioners and all issues pertaining to this treaty can be discussed in it. The spokesperson described the election exercise in Indian illegally occupied

Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as farcical, reminding India that given the internationally recognized disputed status of IIOJK, any so called elections conducted in pursuance of the Indian constitution carries no legal value in the eyes of international law. She said the relevant UN Security Council resolutions clearly state that final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir dispute will be made in accordance with the will of the Kashmiri people expressed through a UN supervised plebiscite. Any other process, cannot, therefore, serve as a substitute to the grant of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. Responding to a question, the foreign office spokesperson rejected Acting



Afghan Consul General's explanation for not standing during the Pakistani national anthem at an event in Peshawar, terming the action a violation of diplomatic norms. She said Pakistan

considers the act of the Acting Afghan Consul General as reprehensible, saying this has hurt the sentiments of the people of Pakistan. She said Pakistan has conveyed its strong protest to the Afghan authorities on the matter. She said decisions will be taken after due internal deliberations and conclusion of talks with the Afghan government. She said Pakistan reserves the right to take action in accordance with diplomatic norms and practices. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will participate in the high-level segment of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York from 23rd to 27th of this month. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the Prime Minister in his address to the UN

General Assembly will reaffirm Pakistan's steadfast commitment to multilateralism and express support for the role of the UN in fostering global peace, security and prosperity. The Prime Minister will emphasize the importance of addressing longstanding issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council including the question of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir dispute. She said that PM Shehbaz Sharif will attend several other high-level meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA session including the high level meeting on Existential Threat posed by Sea Level Rise and the UN Security Council's open debate on Leadership for Peace. His program will also include bilateral meetings with world leaders, the UN

Secretary General, the President of the UN General Assembly and members of Pakistani diaspora. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and senior government officials. The Foreign Office Spokesperson said that Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will also have an extensive program consisting of several high level events and bilateral meetings with his counterparts. He will represent Pakistan at Summit of the Future convened by the UN Secretary General. He will also take part in several ministerial level meetings including the OIC annual coordination meeting of the Foreign Ministers and the meeting of OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. SABAH

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964



MOHAMMED ABU DALHOUM

Jordan's Islamists may expose their own Achilles' heel

streets, hijacking Jordanians' frustration over the ongoing war in Gaza, as the Israel-Palestine conflict was always going to feature heavily in this electoral campaign.

Jordan last week held its 20th parliamentary elections, which saw the largest number of voters in the country's history with 1.68 million, up from 1.38 million in 2020. The increase in the number of voters has been attributed largely to recent reforms emanating from the recommendations of the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System. Among these reforms, a new law served to revamp and regularize political parties to meet much higher standards, such as increased women and youth inclusion in their leadership positions.

By May 2023, 38 political parties had been registered and they began strategizing to compete over 138 parliamentary seats, divided — as per the new elections law — between 41 dedicated for parties through a general national district and 97 held for 18 local districts.

With 41 seats secured, political parties campaigned heavily within the local districts to maximize their gains. Indeed, they ended up winning 73 seats at the local level, meaning 83 percent of the next parliament will be members of a political party.

Of these parties, there was arguably no bigger winner in the elections than the Islamists, which some observers perplexedly saw as a surprise. Over the past 11 months, Islamist parties have dominated the

streets, hijacking Jordanians' frustration over the ongoing war in Gaza, as the Israel-Palestine conflict was always going to feature heavily in this electoral campaign. It is therefore not a surprise that Islamists now directly occupy 29 percent of parliament, as the Islamic Action Front won 31 seats, thanks to nearly half a million votes. The National Islamist Party won seven seats and Al-Ard Al-Mubarak Party won two more.

Along with 24 independent members and 18 leftists, and as parties begin to coalesce, Islamists could gain a majority that would enable them to dictate the legislative scene over the next four years, starting by pressuring the new Prime Minister Jafar Hassan and his imminent government.

Opposite the Islamists are Al-Mithaq and Eradah, two centrist parties spearheading efforts to preserve the political scene from major changes. The two parties won 49 seats, 30 of which were won by Al-Mithaq, headed by the former speaker of the house Ahmad Al-Safadi.

They face a sizable challenge if they want to form a majority coalition. While Al-Itihad Al-Watani Party also leans centrally, Taqaddum and Azm are two important wildcards and their 14 seats could shift the needle one way or the other.

Between the Islamists and centrists, it is worth analyzing what exactly is at stake. When it comes to public confidence, the outgoing parliament accumulated critically low approval ratings despite passing more than 30 laws that 65 percent of Jordanians

agreed with, according to a May 2024 poll by NAMA Strategic Intelligence Solutions.

The next parliament is likely to enjoy higher confidence rates, at least during the first few months. The extent to which it will be sustained hinges on the parliament's ability to tackle aspects long viewed as untouchable, such as Jordan's relations with Israel.

While a centrist-majority parliament is likely to leave most laws intact, under an Islamist-majority legislature, the 1994 Wadi Araba peace treaty between Jordan and Israel is expected to be debated heavily. Islamist lawmakers are likely to call for its termination, along with all diplomatic, political and economic relations.

According to NAMA's polls, there is near-unanimous support among Jordanians for cutting diplomatic relations with Israel, yet 42 percent are still in favor of keeping the peace treaty, the highest recorded percentage on this matter. While canceling the peace treaty is not likely to materialize due to geostrategic factors, the same cannot be said for economic ties, as most Jordanians do not approve of existing or potential economic dealings with Israel, including those on water and energy. Nevertheless, there have been overly exaggerated concerns about the implications of the Islamists' sizable presence in parliament. Some factors mean that, even if they managed to form an advantageous coalition in parliament, the outcome may not be as troubling as anticipated. First, there is substantiated evi-

dence of Islamists underperforming when assuming decision-making positions. Whether in Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon or even in Gaza, Islamist parties have rarely delivered on their promises. Instead, corruption and economic issues, among others, generally worsen and outweigh their populist narratives.

Second, NAMA's research on the ideologies of Jordanian political parties show marginal differences between Islamists and centrists. In interviewing party leaders on 42 policy issues, Islamists and centrists appear quite similar. They both lean slightly to the left on the economic axis, with only 4 percentage points between the two. As for the social axis, they both appear identically authoritarian, with a mere single percentage point difference.

Therefore, the heavy presence of Islamists in Jordan's new parliament may just prove to be their own Achilles' heel, not Jordan's. The similarities between Islamists and centrists could foresee a cohesive, harmonious legislature. In that case, Islamists are likely to lose support for failing to bring anything new. On the other hand, if Islamists end up presenting themselves differently in Jordan than elsewhere in the region, then we could see a gridlocked parliament, at which point they are also likely to lose support due to their lack of efficacy in delivering on their promises.

Mohammed Abu Dalhoum is the president of MENA ACTION and a senior research analyst at NAMA Strategic Intelligence Solutions.

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



Although the opposition called on voters to boycott the elections, it was largely ignored, and the people turned out in considerable numbers to elect new legislatures and thereby end still another extended period of martial law. Zia ul-Haq used the occasion of the convening of the national assembly to handpick Muhammad Khan Junejo, a Sindh politician and landowner, to become the country's new prime minister.

Martial law was officially lifted in December 1985, and political parties sought to take advantage of the new conditions by reestablishing themselves. In January 1986, Junejo announced that he intended to revive and lead the Pakistan Muslim League—often designated as Muslim League (J) to distinguish it from other factions attempting to access the party's legacy. Soon afterward Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and head of the PPP, returned from a two-year exile abroad and was greeted by a tumultuous gathering of supporters who were eager to reclaim their party's reputation. Other political parties also reemerged during this period, but it was clear that in the contest for national political power the key rivals would be the Muslim League (J) and Bhutto's PPP.

Lifting martial law coincided with intensified conflict between the country's different ethnic communities, particularly in the commercial port city of Karachi. Tension between native Sindhis and Muslim immigrants from India (muhajirs) was an ever-present dilemma, and the formation of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) in the mid-1980s was both a cause and a consequence of the violence that was directed against the immigrant community. The founding of the MQM and its increasingly militant posture aroused the native Sindhis as never before. The Sindhi complaint that the muhajirs enjoyed a monopoly of political and economic power in Karachi did not go un-

noticed. Indeed, the violent clashes between Sindhis and muhajirs were an inevitable outcome of the failure to promote civil society, let alone to encourage deeper integration among Pakistan's ethnic groups. Moreover, violence could not be avoided when Pashtun migrants, notably Afghan Pashtuns, began moving from the frontier region to Karachi, posing still another challenge to the Sindhis as well as muhajir communities.

Still another problem involved the narcotics and weapons trade that had its roots in the North-West Frontier Province. By 1986 intercommunal violence in Karachi had reached a level not seen since partition, nor was the fighting contained to Karachi. Riots also broke out in Quetta and Hyderabad, and the government called on the army to restore law and order.

Confronting major opposition to his rule, challenged by intensified ethnic warfare, and struggling to sustain an economy confounded by mixed sig-

nals, in May 1988 Zia ul-Haq dissolved the national and provincial assemblies and dismissed the Junejo government. The president alleged that Junejo's administration reeked of corruption, that the prime minister was too weak to control profligate politicians, and that he had encouraged the political opposition to weaken Zia by undermining his administration. Zia promised the country still another national election, which would, he said, restore clean government, and in June he made himself head of a new caretaker government. Although the country was in considerable disarray, Zia pretended that everything was under control. On August 17, 1988, he was killed when his aircraft blew up in flight from Bahawalpur; the cause of the crash, which also took the life of the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan and several top-ranking Pakistani generals, has never been fully determined.

To be continued....

The children left behind

DR ADEELA AHMED SHAFI

You may be reading this and thinking: why an article on juvenile justice, what even is it and why in Pakistan? We have so many other problems – how can we even think about those youngsters who have committed crime, never mind thinking about education in jail for them? Well, that is exactly what I am asking you to think about. You might ask what a second-generation British Pakistani would know about Pakistan's problems. Maybe I do not know enough – but what I do know is that children are children everywhere and have the same rights whether they are in America, Brazil, Dubai or Pakistan, whether they are rich or poor, whether they are black or white, boy or girl, Muslim or non-Muslim, immigrant or refugees and whether they are incarcerated or not. Indeed, Pakistan agrees with me because back in 1990 it signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC), a legally-binding international agreement, which states in Article 28 (from 54 articles) that "Children and young people have the right to education no matter who they are: regardless of race, gender or disability; if they're in detention, or if they're a refugee."

Ratifying such international agreements means that countries commit to ensuring they fulfil the obligations within those agreements and that governments take on the responsibilities for what the agreement entails. In Pakistan juvenile justice and education is within its infancy. However, that assumes that it will eventually mature. In Pakistan, though, incarcerated juveniles are one of the most forgotten and least considered sections of society. Pakistan's issues are challenging, but no more challenging than other countries in similar situations. And in any case, it is inevitable that a government will have challenges because it has to meet the diverse needs of a diverse population with finite resources. All must be addressed in tandem and form part of the day-to-day activity of any state.

To that end, educating children convicted of crimes in jails should be as much a priority as educating children in mainstream schools. Why? Because if a child has committed a crime then they need even more support and education to help them to get out of it. In fact, children who find themselves incarcerated tend to be from poorer families, of immigrant or refugee status, have additional needs or disabilities and are more likely to have a parent in prison, making them more vulnerable in society. This is not just the case in Pakistan, but tends to be the same in countries all over the world. Again, Pakistan is no exception. There are an estimated 1700-2000 children in Pakistani jails, but nobody knows the true figure. As many as 89 per cent are there without trial largely because they cannot afford nor have access to lawyers or their fees, according to research by Shujaat & Mirza back in 2015 (I have not yet come across more recent data). Given the often squalid conditions of prisons in Pakistan, education is much lower down the priority list for the country. However, Pakistan is bound by its international obligations and so must find a way to ensure it meets these. To do that, it needs to focus on a fair judicial system and ensure that all children are given a fair trial in a timely way so that incarceration is the last resort and for the shortest possible time (UNCRC, Article 37).

Pakistan has made some efforts in the last quarter of a century, so let's take a look at those. Back in 2000, the government established the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO) as the national framework governing juvenile offenders. This aimed to provide protection for the rights of children in conflict with the law and their rehabilitation. However, despite this positive step, implementation was fraught with challenges, such as neglect by subsequent governments, a low priority status and other conflicting laws – which the JJSO could not override. In recognition of this, the government passed the Juvenile Justice System Act (JSSA) 2018. This was a welcome change in the law designed to overcome some of the challenges for the JJSO. Significantly, the JSSA set out some key changes which on paper were quite forward-looking and included: determining the age of the offender; raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 7 to 10 years; disposal of cases through diversion; introduction of Juvenile Justice Committees; and introduction of Juvenile Rehabilitation Centres (JRC).

However, despite these seemingly positive changes, the problems are a list as long as your arm. For example, little to no allocation of financial and human resources, a lack or no training for police nor for the judiciary handling juvenile cases. No establishment of juvenile courts, nor of the Juvenile Justice Committees or Juvenile Rehabilitation Centres (except two). Implementation mechanisms have been weak with an inadequate infrastructure.

Additional problems include policing issues, an under-developed youth justice system and little or poor facilities for children in prison. All of these problems are underpinned by an absence of sustained political will and commitment which has meant that a child-friendly justice and rehabilitation objective remains a pipedream. Despite some political will – note the JJSO and JSSA – the education of children in jails is clearly not a priority. Having been working in this field for many years in European and Western countries, I feel it is my duty, as someone with Pakistani heritage, to bring this passion to Pakistan and raise awareness in this country. So what do I, in my humble opinion, think is needed to change the situation in Pakistan? First, creating public awareness is key. Just because a country has many problems does not mean it is OK to disregard the most vulnerable in society. Second, an allocation of resources and guidance or training to implement the JSSA (2018) has to be an area of focus. This needs to include training for the police, the judiciary and trainee lawyers as well as jails themselves. At present, there are only four dedicated juvenile jails – two in Punjab, one in Faisalabad and one in Bahawalpur. To achieve all these, it is necessary to prioritize juvenile justice and bring it higher up the political agenda. Given the number of children in prisons without trial, the government must find a way to educate those children because they are technically under the care of the state.

The writer is a professor of education in youth justice, University of Gloucestershire, UK.

Showbiz

Hayden Panettiere explains how she dealt with grief after her brother's death

Hayden Panettiere reveals she gained 40 pounds within few days after her only sibling's death

Hayden Panettiere has recently explained how grief affected her body days after her younger brother Jansen's death in 2023.

In a new interview with PEOPLE, Hayden revealed, "I just ballooned out." "It didn't matter what I did, what I ate. I know stress and cortisol running through your body can do that," continued the 35-year-old.

Hayden remarked, "Now I think my body was protecting itself, shielding itself from the world."

The *Scream* actress told the outlet, "He was my only sibling, and it was my job to protect him."

"When I lost him, I felt like I lost half of my soul...I will always be heartbro-



ken about [him], I will never be able to get over it," pointed out Custody access.

Hayden further said, "No matter how many years go by, I will never get over his loss."

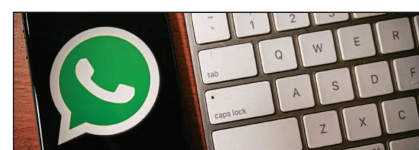
Elsewhere in the interview, the *Bring It On* actress opened up that her weight gain made things worse and she hardly left her house.

"I had to see horrific paparazzi pictures of myself coming out of Jansen's funeral, which happened in a very private place, and it was shocking," she stated. Hayden added, "I didn't recognise myself. My agoraphobia came out, which is something I've struggled with in the past."

Tech

WhatsApp rolling out new feature for Mac users

WhatsApp is introducing a new feature, as part of the WhatsApp beta for Mac 24.19.71 update, that will enable users to access and follow channels on their Mac, WABetaInfo reported. In the latest update — available on the TestFlight app — users can view channels directly from the Status tab, which has now been renamed to Updates, giving users access to both status updates and channels from the Mac Catalyst app. Previously, users were limited to viewing certain channel updates only through notifications due to the lack of full support for viewing them, WABetaInfo reported. Additionally, WhatsApp is transitioning users' ability to access channels from the Mac Electron app to the new Mac Catalyst app, as the former is set to be deprecated next month. Other than viewing channels, users can now follow their favourite channels directly from the Mac app and explore the channels directory by filtering channels based on country and category. This may also allow users to discover new



content that aligns with their interests, without needing to switch to the mobile app.

Although this feature is available in the latest Mac Catalyst beta version, it's important to note that channels may not yet be fully synced with the mobile app. This means that channels followed on the mobile app might not immediately appear on the desktop app, so users may need to follow them again on the desktop. Additionally, channel owners might temporarily be unable to share updates within their channels from their mobile device if they follow them from the Catalyst app. Encountering such issues is expected as this is a beta version and the feature is still being refined. However, these bugs will be addressed in a future update.

Health

Daily servings of cruciferous vegetables may help lower blood pressure

Over one billion adults worldwide Trusted Source have high blood pressure, making it a critical subject of research and health interventions.

A study Trusted Source published in BMC Medicine Trusted Source looked at how certain vegetables like broccoli and cauliflower might help reduce blood pressure in adults with mildly elevated blood pressure. The researchers found that consuming four daily servings of cruciferous vegetables for two weeks, compared to an equivalent control intervention of root and squash vegetables, helped to lower 24-hour brachial systolic blood pressure by an average of 2.5 mmHg. This decrease could mean reducing the risk for major cardiovascular events by 5%. High blood pressure Trusted Source, also known as hypertension, can increase the risk of heart attack and stroke, so it's essential to control it. Controlling high

blood pressure can involve dietary changes.

The researchers of the current study wanted to see how cruciferous vegetables, compared to root and squash vegetables, affected blood pressure. Cruciferous vegetables Trusted Source include vegetables like kale, broccoli, and cauliflower. Researchers measured how cruciferous vegetables affected 24-hour brachial systolic blood pressure Trusted Source. Systolic blood pressure is the top blood pressure number, which measures when the heart muscles contract.

This research was a randomized, controlled, crossover trial that recruited 18 Australian participants between 56 and 72 years old. Recruited participants had mild or moderately high blood pressure, defined as a systolic blood pressure between 120 and 160 mmHg and a diastolic reading of less than 100 mmHg. The mean

systolic blood pressure at baseline was considered mildly elevated at 135.9 mmHg, and the mean diastolic blood pressure was 76.4 mmHg. Researchers had participants fill out a dietary questionnaire to establish baseline diets and typical consumption of cruciferous vegetables. They also gathered data on physical activity and stress levels. Participants took part in two, two-week long interventions with a two-week break in between the interventions. For one of the intervention periods, participants received the control, which consisted of four servings of root and squash vegetables a day.

For the other intervention period, participants received the active intervention, which consisted of four servings of cruciferous vegetables a day. Participants ate the vegetables prepared as soups with lunch and dinner each day.



Status of Form 45 or Form 47 ends when ballot boxes are opened: CJP Qazi Faez Isa

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa has said that the status of Form 45 or Form 47 ends when the ballot boxes are opened. He said in the case of election, all the votes in the box is primary evidence, Form 45 and Form 47 are secondary evidence. Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez said if anyone suspects that votes have not been counted correctly, the only solution is to open the ballot boxes and recount them again. He said, "Who is the liar and the truth? Only Almighty Allah knows. We will go by the facts. I don't know who is the liar and who is the true. This is not a case of husband and wife. Go up for justice, we judge according to law." A 3-member bench headed by CJP Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan conducted hearing on the petition filed by Pakistan People's Party candidate from PB-14 Naseerabad, Balochistan Ghulam Rasool Umrani against the decision of the Election Tribunal. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) winning candidate Muhammad Khan Lehari, Election Commission of Pakistan and others were made respondents in the petition. Saeed Khurshid Ahmed appeared on behalf of the petitioner while Muhammad Akram Shah appeared as counsel on behalf of the defendant, while DG Law Election Commission Muhammad Arshad and legal consultant Falak Sher also appeared in the court during the hearing. CJP Qazi Faez Isa remarked, "You have lost from the Election Commission and the Election Tribunal. Whether they have some enmity with you. They are not hostile or saying that the ballot box was empty, the returning officer is not using his intellect but is making a decision by recounting the votes". Rejecting the application of Pakistan People's Party candidate Ghulam Rasool Umrani citing allegations of partiality by the counting and returning officers, the bench upheld the victory decision of PML-N candidate Muhammad Khan Lehari. SABAH

Professionalism of Pakistani...

Continued from Page 1

While serving in international environment, both officers demonstrated exceptional professionalism, dedication and made significant contribution to Mission's Peace and Stability efforts especially with regards to advancing women's meaningful participation in Peacekeeping Operations within the mission. Their profound role in peacekeeping have been acknowledged by respective Mission Force Commanders. This recognition is a testament to the Pakistan's unwavering commitment to UN Peacekeeping mandate, professionalism and diligent efforts by Pakistani peacekeepers to make positive impact in peacekeeping efforts. Pakistan remains committed to play a pivotal role as a responsible member of the international community to help realize the ideals of global peace and security through active support in UN Peacekeeping Missions. PR



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attend a ceremony in connection with 75th anniversary of People's Republic of China.

Chinese Embassy holds grand reception to mark its Independence Day

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador People's Republic of China Jiang Zaidong here on Thursday hosted a grand reception at a local hotel to mark the 75th anniversary of Founding Day of his country that was largely attended among others by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif as a Chief Guests. It was an impressive ceremony, reflective of deep-rooted brotherly relations between China and Pakistan, as there was all praise of China's socio-economic rise and China's warmness towards Pakistan since its independence. Participants in the reception included civil and military officers, political figures, diplomats, journalists and elite of city, besides some Federal Ministers. On the occasion, the Ambassador extended profound thanks to the government and people of Pakistan for their heart-felt sentiments towards China. He eulogised presence of Pakistan's top dignitaries in the event. He mentioned the fast-growing China's development under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. He added, China was taking new initiatives for its moderation and reformation in all sectors. The Ambassador also spoke high about the contribution of Communist Party of China in their all-round national development. He said, the friendship between Pakistan and China was strong and deep as Pakistan was a brotherly country. He said that with the joint efforts of both sides, CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes

covering all areas of common interest. The CPEC, he said has an important role in Pakistan's economic and social development. President Asif Ali Zardari in his address on the occasion praised high visionary leadership of China for developing China as a strong and powerful State in comity of Nations. He said, People of Pakistan are proud of their all-weather friendship with China. He was confident their decades-old partnership will keep growing with a passage of time. President added, their mutual friendship is a great source of peace and prosperity world over. We are reliable friends for all time to come. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said it was momentous occasion, celebrating the 75th anniversary of China. Lauded Sino-Pak friendship, he said this is unbreakable and unshakable. He appreciated China's support at the level of IMF. We are highly obliged for it. The Prime Minister mentioned his last visit to China, stating it was very productive. Welcome extended to him during the visit was highly impressive. Shahbaz Sharif praised President Xi's Belt and Road initiative and said it was contributing immensely in achieving economic prosperity in the entire region. He said Pakistan fully supports China's position on its core issues. Referring to CPEC, the Primer Minister hoped its 2nd phase will help to further develop important sectors like agriculture and mineral. He said, they are looking forward for Chinese Premier's visit to Pakistan, hoping it will push forward their bilateral ties

to a new height. The Chinese Ambassador in his address further said "Over the past 75 years, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese nation has realized a tremendous leap-over from standing up, growing prosperous to becoming strong. The Chinese people have made significant achievements from being left behind in history, catching up with the times to leading the era. Especially since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, with a profound spirit of historical initiative, an overwhelming abundance of political courage, and a strong sense of responsibility, President Xi Jinping have piloted and navigated the Party, the military, and people of all ethnic groups to continue writing new chapters of rapid economic development and long-term social stability, embarking on a new journey of modernization with Chinese characteristics. We have transformed from being poor and backward to the world's second-largest economy, with our economic output grew 223 times from 1952 to 2023, and now accounting for 17% of the world's total. We have risen from scrubs and ruins to build the world's most complete industrial system. We have journeyed from destitution and deprivation to fully building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. In 2023, the per capita disposable income of Chinese residents, adjusted for price factors, has grown 76 times compared to 1949. After 75 years of hard struggle, the Chinese path has become broader, the Chinese theory more prominent, the Chinese system more mature, and the Chinese spirit more robust.

Apex court's July 12 ruling is now 'incapable of implementation' after the amendments to Election Act 2017: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD: Days after the Supreme Court of Pakistan issued clarification on the reserved seats verdict, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the apex court's July 12 ruling is now "incapable of implementation" after the amendments to Election Act 2017.

In what it called a major victory for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), a 13-member full bench of the top court on July 12 ruled that the Imran Khan-founded party was eligible for the allocation of reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in the national and provincial assemblies. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah announced the 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order wherein it had upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying the reserved seats to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). The PTI candidates contested the February 8, 2024 general elections as independents after the top court upheld the ECP decision to deprive the opposition party of its iconic electoral symbol — bat — over "unlawful" intra-party polls. The decision forced the PTI-backed winning candidates to join the SIC in a bid to claim reserved seats. However, the ECP denied the reserved to the SIC over its failure to submit list of candidates within the stipulated time.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in his letter to the electoral watchdog, noted that the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission to allow independent returned candidates to join another political party months after already joining a political party as a result of the General Elections 2024. "In effect, the SC judgment has allowed a returned candidate to switch political parties," it noted.

However, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq noted, after the July 12 ruling, parliament adopted the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024 — which had also received President Asif Ali Zardari's assent on August 7 and published in the Gazette of Pakistan on August 9 as "Amended Election Act".

He pointed out two "particular provisions" — amendments to Section 66 and Section 104-A, which he said, were relevant for the Election Commission's consideration. In its amendment to Section 66 of the Elections Act, the bill says that if a candidate does not submit a declaration of his affiliation with a political party to the returning officer (RO) before seeking allotment of the election symbol, they shall be "deemed to be considered as an independent candidate and not a candidate of any political party". Meanwhile, the amendment to Section 104 reads that the declaration, consent or affidavit, by whatever name called, of an independent returned candidate once given for joining a political party shall be irrevocable and cannot be substituted or withdrawn. Furthermore, the letter pointed out Section 1 (2) of the Amended Election Act, which states that the said amendments will have retrospective effect from 2017 when the Election Act 2017 was passed. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid Hassan, Ambassador of Egypt called on Federal Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif. INP

Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh presents his credentials to President Joseph R. Biden

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States of America Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh on Thursday presented his Letter of Credence to President Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America, as the 30th Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States. The ceremony, held at Blair House, was attended by members of the diplomatic community and senior officials of the U.S. administration. In his remarks, Ambassador Rizwan Saeed conveyed greetings from the President, Prime Minister, and the people of Pakistan to the leadership and people of the United States. He stated that Pakistan and the United States have a rich legacy of cooperative relations and have laid multiple foundations to strengthen bilateral ties. Recalling U.S. assistance to Pakistan, especially during its nascent phase of statehood, the Ambassador observed that the two countries continue to invest in their relationship and are stepping up cooperation in climate change, energy, health, trade, and investment. "Pakistan-U.S. economic partnership is the core of our engagement, and the United States continues to be the largest destination for Pakistani exports," Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh said. SABAH

'Proposed constitutional amendments to be tabled after achieving consensus'

KARACHI: Federal Minister for States, Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Engineer Ameer Maqam, Thursday, said that proposed constitutional amendments will be tabled in the house after due consultations and achieving consensus of all the political parties and other stakeholders. While addressing to elders of Afghan Refugees and later talking to media during visit of Urban Cohesion Hub Karachi here, he said that negotiations were under way with the political parties and consultation process was continue in connection with the proposed amendments aimed at introducing reforms in judicial system and ensuring swift justice to the people of the country. The government has initiated the process of constitutional amendment in the best interest of the people of Pakistan and there were no personal motives involved in it, he said and urged all the political leadership to join the hands of government for betterment of the country and the nation. The Federal minister was of the view that some elements were opposing the amendments



only for the sake of political number scoring. Ameer Maqam said that Pakistan has been hosting more than 3 million Afghan refugees which included around 1.4 million legal migrants and thousands of illegal immigrants for over 40 years. There was no other country in the world that has hosted such a large number of refugees for such a long time, he added. The federal and provincial governments as well as national and international organizations were striving hard to resolve the issues of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and holistic measures were being taken for their repatriation to Afghanistan, he said adding that repatriation of Afghan nationals illegally staying in Pakistan was policy of the government but we are not using coercive measures for achieving the objective. APP

TTP emerging as umbrella body for other terrorist groups



UNITED NATIONS: A top Pakistani diplomat Wednesday told the U.N. Security Council that the Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP), which has Afghan rulers' protection, was emerging as an umbrella organization for other terrorist groups, whose objectives, he said, were the destabilization of Afghanistan's neighbours.

"While some of our friends may believe that they are only threatened by Daesh, they should also be concerned by the threat they could confront from a strengthened TTP in the not too distant future," Ambassador Munir Akram warned the 15-member Council during its debate in the situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan, he said, will take national action, cooperating with regional and international organizations to eliminate TTP's threat. "The TTP (which we in Pakistan call Fitna Al Khawarij) is an organization of special concern to Pakistan and should be of concern to the entire region and the world," the Pakistani envoy said, while giving details of its deadly cross-border attacks that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians and soldiers. Even three years after the Taliban assumed the reins of power in Afghanistan, the situation continues to be dire and deeply concerning, Ambassador Akram said. There will be no normalization "until the fundamental issues that trouble Afghanistan are addressed — terrorism, human rights, political inclusion, illegal Afghan migration and the problem of Afghan refugees."

"Terrorism within and from Afghanistan poses the single most serious threat to the country, to the region and to the world, he said, highlighting a recent United Nations report describing TTP as "the largest terrorist group" in that country which receives growing support from Taliban rulers to conduct cross-border attacks in Pakistan. "While the AIG is fighting ISIL-K i.e. (Daesh) — without complete success so far — other terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, and the TTP and others, are not only present in Afghanistan; they appear to have been provided safe havens and protection by the AIG (Afghan Interim Government)."

At the same time, Ambassador Akram reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to supporting a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, echoing the shared aspirations of its neighboring countries and the international community for greater political inclusivity in Afghanistan. Pakistan, he said, firmly believes that such inclusivity was vital for enhancing the prospects of stability and normalization within that country. However, the Pakistan UN envoy expressed deep concern about the ongoing violations of human rights by the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), particularly against women and girls. "The AIG has not only reneged on its commitments regarding women and girls but has exacerbated the situation by issuing new directives aimed at silencing their voices," he stated. Ambassador Akram said Pakistan strongly condemns these actions. He said that these backward measures violate the true essence of our enlightened religion, which was among the first to uphold equal rights for both men and women. The Pakistan envoy said that while we remain committed to constructive engagement with the Taliban regime, it is clear that the regime must not be allowed to manipulate regional and international dynamics to avoid its obligations. DNA



Governance reforms to be implemented in ICT, says Ahsan Iqbal

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal has underscored the importance of developing an exemplary governance model for Islamabad Capital Territory. He was chairing a meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on ICT Governance Model, held in Islamabad today. The focus of the meeting was to discuss governance models for Islamabad Capital Territory with an emphasis on improving administrative and financial autonomy. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the unique governance challenges faced by ICT due to the absence of a provincial assembly and administrative auton-



omy. He called on the committee to explore whether Islamabad requires a provincial-like government structure or whether a more robust local government model would be a better alternative. Furthermore, the Minister expressed concern over the duplication of responsibilities among various entities, such as the CDA, the Ministry of Interior, and line ministries, which leads to inefficiencies in governance. He stressed the need to consolidate administrative authority and ensure professional management in sectors like health and education. Ahsan Iqbal urged the committee to consider developing a model in Islamabad that sets a national standard for excellence in these sectors. The Minister also emphasized the importance of creating a strong local government system that can address municipal and local issues effectively, noting that centralized governance structures are often unable to resolve local matters. Ahsan Iqbal reiterated the committee's mandate to develop a comprehensive reform package for ICT governance, aimed at creating a more efficient, transparent, and citizen-centered administrative structure.

Lieutenant General Yusuf Jamal confers medals on 35 scientists, engineers

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Yusuf Jamal, Director General Strategic Plans Division on behalf of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, conferred distinguished service medals to thirty-five eminent scientists and engineers of the Strategic Plans Division (SPD) for their meritorious services during an Investiture Ceremony held at Chaklala Garrison, today. PR